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MEMORANDUM FROM THE CHIEF

(The following memorandum addressed to Assistant Chiefs and signed by Mr. Silcox was circulated to all Divisions and Section Chiefs and to Regional Foresters and Directors of Experiment Stations.)

The Secretary's office has commented favorably upon the factual accuracy and correctness of letters prepared by the Forest Service for the Secretary's signature. However, our attention has been properly called to the unfortunate weakening of many of these letters by what I am sure is an unintentional lack of friendliness and understanding. In our zeal to compose a factually and grammatically correct letter we sometimes overlook the warm personal touch which makes a letter ring true and oftentimes converts a chronic fault-finder into a sympathetic supporter.

Perhaps this tendency is the result of our attempting to develop a more concise style of writing for intra-Service communications. Regardless of cause I believe you will agree that our letters will be much more agreeably received and acted upon, if such correspondence is written in a more friendly spirit, and I sincerely urge that you strive to achieve an ideal in letters not only for the Secretary's signature but in all our correspondence that will combine accuracy of statement and dignity with friendliness and warmth of tone.

Copies of this letter are being sent to all Regional Foresters and the Directors of Experiment Stations since this criticism is no doubt applicable in more or less degree throughout the Service.

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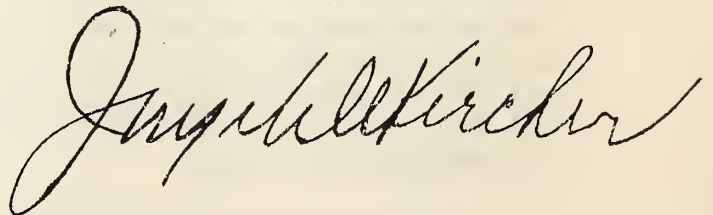
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE REGIONAL FORESTER

From the Regional Office to the field and to all Forest Service people, the Dixie Ranger carries sincere greetings and hearty good wishes for happiness in this Christmas Season.

Robert Louis Stevenson believed the highest duty of any human being was to be as happy as possible. Christmas is truly a season of happiness and good cheer, the time when we pause to count our blessings and reflect on the value of human relationships. All of us share in common the personal feeling that the richest possessions we have had from life are the friendships we have made. The recognition of this fact at Christmas time gives the season its immortal spirit of cheer and friendliness. It is the time when we give special thought to the happiness of others and take time to remember old friends and express to them some kindly Christmas greeting.

This Christmas marks the passing of another milestone in the history of Region 8. It has been a good year and the personnel of the Region has again demonstrated its vision and loyalty under the weight of heavy work loads. I review our accomplishments in the year past with satisfaction and gratification. I want you to know that I feel whatever the Region has accomplished is due to the loyalty and effectiveness of the entire personnel in working together to forward the interests of the Service. I look forward with you to this continued progress and to the satisfaction that comes from the thought of work well done.

May the Season mean much to you and the loved ones with whom you share it. It is with genuine appreciation and happiness that I wish for each of you, wherever you may be, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph H. Kircher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

SECOND PULPWOOD-FORESTRY MEETING AT JACKSONVILLE

At the May 1937 meeting of southern members of the American Pulpwood Association, southern State Foresters and Federal Foresters, it was suggested that a second meeting be held within the year to discuss results obtained and to formulate plans for the future.

Between 80 to 90 delegates from the industry, the States, and the U. S. Forest Service met at Jacksonville on December 5, 6, and 7 at the call of the Secretary of the American Pulpwood Association. Reports were presented at meetings of the four groups and at a general meeting which indicated that although there had not been full compliance with the cutting practice rules progress was being made. Steps were taken to correlate the cutting practice rules for the four groups so as to make them more uniform for the South as a whole. Foresters representing the public agencies stated that these practice rules were still inadequate and that they should be considered as minimum requirements. It was agreed, however, that they should be given a further trial. In this connection the industry appointed a Committee of Information, Inspection, and Publicity composed of five men who would study the problems of compliance and report to the membership.

Slides prepared by the Forest Service were shown calling attention to good and poor practices in pulpwood operations in the South. A motion picture of pulpwood operations in Canada was also shown at the general meeting.

Members of the industry again agreed to work for better forest practices and they were assured of further cooperation by the State and Federal forestry agencies.

-- G. H. Lentz, Regional Office

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FORESTRY - BY THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

The Southern Railway Company has issued a leaflet, "The Southern Railway System - The Pioneer Railroad in Forestry", which calls attention to its forestry program. This program, inaugurated by the late Mr. W. W. Finley as President of the Company, is not confined "merely to advocating sound forestry practices by others", but the Company is now operating a demonstration forest of its own at Pregnall, South Carolina.

In 1925 it was decided to operate the 11,043 acres at Pregnall, originally acquired to supply wood for construction and for wood burning locomotives, as a perpetual forest to demonstrate that it would pay to grow pine trees. A headquarters for a resident forester and his assistant is maintained on the tract. The forestry program includes protection from fire and the gradual replacement of longleaf

pine with slash pine. Intermediate thinnings are planned for the improvement of naturally restocked and planted stands with the smaller trees to be used for pulpwood and the larger ones to be cut for poles. Up to September 1, 1937 over 61,000 trees had been cut for lumber and poles, and a total of 3,880 cords of pulpwood has also been sold.

The leaflet states: "This forest is accomplishing its purpose of demonstrating the practicability of growing pine trees profitably in the South."

An invitation is extended by Richard W. Wirt, assistant vice-president in charge of industrial and agricultural development, to all persons interested in forestry and forest products to visit the forest at Pregnull.

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IN MEMORIAM

J. Mayes Kemp of the Regional Office died at a private hospital in Atlanta on November 22 after a brief illness. He had many friends in the office who will greatly regret his passing.

Mr. Kemp had been employed in the Division of Fiscal Control since January 21, 1935. He was a resident of Decatur, Georgia and a member of the Decatur Methodist Church. He had attended Emory University and was a graduate of the Atlanta Law School. Interment was at the Marietta Camp Meeting Ground, Marietta, Georgia, on November 23. Surviving are his mother and six sisters.

The Dixie Ranger extends the sympathy of the Regional Office personnel to the bereaved relatives.

MEETINGS HELD IN GEORGIA ON PROPER
MANAGEMENT OF FARM WOODLANDS

During the period November 11 to November 18 a series of seven meetings was held in South Georgia to teach the county agents, vocational teachers, and timber protective organization secretaries methods of scaling, cruising, and marking timber on farm woodlands.

These meetings, held as a joint project of the Georgia Extension Service, Georgia Forest Service, and the U. S. Forest Service, were the direct result of the preparation by this office of a handbook on pulpwood. Mr. Garruth represented the Georgia Forest Service, and Messrs. Lanier, Johnson and Shirley of the Georgia Extension Service. Messrs. Lentz and Hawes of the Division of State and Private Forestry represented the U. S. Forest Service.

One hundred and twenty-seven people attended these sessions, including a representative of the Southern Kraft Mill at Panama City and one from the Union Bag and Paper Company of Savannah. The Agricultural Agent and Industrial Agent of the Central of Georgia Railroad and the Southern Railway System were also present for one day.

This pulpwood material was enthusiastically received and numerous requests were received for other material dealing with saw timber, reforestation, and fire protection.

It is believed that these meetings served a very real need and that the county agents will be in a much better position to handle their local forestry problems and to conduct meetings with woodland owners.

-- E. T. Hawes, Regional Office

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ARKANSAS CLUB ACTIVE IN FIRE PREVENTION WORK

(Editor's note: When Donald Clark was on the Ouachita this fall, he was much impressed with the splendid way in which the Sugar Loaf Mountain Forestry Club is carrying on a campaign to keep fires out of the woods, and submitted the following information concerning the work of this organization.)

To the northeast of the Cold Springs District of the Ouachita lies Sugar Loaf Mountain, a wooded area of about 40,000 acres. The area had been severely burned year after year until a few years ago when a group of the local residents and landowners of tracts formed an association known as the Sugar Loaf Mountain Forestry Club of Midland. The club has developed a cooperative forest fire suppression organization, recognized by the Arkansas State Forest Service, and has protected the mountain from fires during the past several years. They have installed low standard telephone communication on the area and located fire tool caches at strategic points. The U. S. Forest Service lookout on Poteau Mountain furnishes them detection service on the south side of Sugar Loaf, and it is understood that the State plans to

build a tower on Sugar Loaf next year to complete the coverage to the north and to cooperate with the Forest Service in covering the north side of Poteau Mountain.

At the 1937 Scott County Fair at Waldron this enterprising club showed one of the most interesting exhibits at the fair. It consisted of canned products gathered from Sugar Loaf Mountain by members of the club. Among the 57 or more varieties were blackberries, blueberries, dewberries, elder berries, pepper-wine berries, winter huckleberries, wild cherries, yellow plums, wild pears, muscadine grapes, wild honey, wild pecans, chinquapins, possum grapes, partridge peas, late plums, hickory nuts, pickled prickly pears, late plum butter, red plum butter; six kinds of jam, eleven kinds of jelly, and six kinds of wild fruit juices.

The sign above the exhibit read:

SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN FORESTRY CLUB

Midland, Arkansas
WILD FOODS EXHIBIT

EVERYBODY LOSES WHEN THE WOODS BURN

Ranger Griswold's exhibit portrayed a pine forest (effectively depicted with the use of club moss instead of trees), guarded by a fire lookout. An electric toy train, hauling three carloads of logs through a tunnel in the mountainside, attracted the interest of youngsters and oldsters alike.

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C. A. ABELL TRANSFERRED TO THE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

After a decade at the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station, Charles A. Abell was transferred December 1 to the California Forest and Range Experiment Station at Berkeley. Abell has a real problem in his new assignment to Fire Control Planning research in the Southern California brush field type. A 12-month fire season, steep and rugged topography, a dry climate, and dense inflammable vegetation make the fire control problem extremely difficult in this region and planning for better control is of paramount importance.

Abell came to the Appalachian Station in 1928 and was engaged in silvicultural investigations until 1935, when he began fire detection planning studies. These resulted in the system of planning lookout networks now used extensively in the mountain areas of Regions 7 and 8. A recent contribution to the betterment of fire control was Abell's report on rate of spread and resistance to control in the different fuel types of the region.

-- Josephine Laxton, App. Forest Exp. Station

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FOREST NEWS

CHEROKEE

On October 25 the second Cherokee Wild Boar hunt opened in the Bald River section of the Tellico Wildlife Management Area. The hunt lasted nine days during which time 63 hunters bagged 15 hogs for a success ratio of slightly over 23 per cent. Not only is this success ratio higher than last year, but it is the consensus of opinion of local residents and Forest Officers that the quality of the animals taken this year was much better than previously. Only one hunter had the misfortune to bag a purely barnyard "grunter" and he is still of the opinion that he has a rare trophy - an albino "Rooshian".

The hunt was unmarred by accidents although one near-tragedy occurred when a wounded boar charged a guide and sent him spinning to the ground. However, a lucky shot by another guide (a brother of the attacked man) which broke a tusk, and the courage of his dog, which literally pulled the hog off of him, saved the guide from serious injury.

With the total dressed weight of the hogs removed at 1,750 pounds and the total receipts for special hunting permits at \$380.00, Ranger Duncan feels that we got better than the market for our pork.

-- P.F.W. Prater, Forest Supervisor

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FLORIDA

War started upon the Ocala November 20 with the opening of the annual hunting season. A meeting of State and Forest Service officers was held at the District Ranger's office on the night previous to the opening day for a discussion of ways and means to prevent game law violations. The next day twelve State Game Wardens and five Forest Officers were on the job bright and early at their posts around the Ocala National Forest. At least 30 deer were taken the first day, with no record of law violations.

The Ocala makes no bows to the Cherokee and its wild "rooshun" boars. The Ocala, too, has its ferocious, porcine denizens of the wild. The Ocala, too, has sows whose litters grow to be dangerous animals. However, whether the Florida "Cracker" is more hardy than the Tennessee "Ridge Runner" or not, this blood thirsty creature is hunted with a .22 rifle on the Ocala. Anyone doubting the existence and the ferocity of the local hawk is referred to Harley A. Reynolds, ERA laborer on the Ocala. On one of his non-working days Reynolds, armed with a .22, set forth to bring to a close his settler's hog claim on the Ocala. He found a hog, missed his shot, and the hog found him. A severely chewed left calf was all he received from the hog before it walked off and left him.

Under the supervision of Assistant Supervisor Howard and the advice of Messrs. Osborne and Bickford of the Experiment Station, the Ocala started a program of controlled burning in the longleaf pine type on Riverside Island. To date about 2,000 acres have been burned with

varying success and by various methods. A great deal of experience was gained in learning the conditions under which a controlled fire will burn best and give a proper consumption of fuel. It was thought previously that a line of fire would burn over a forty in one night. It has been learned that this is definitely impossible due to the rise of humidity and the consequent rise of fuel moisture on the Ocala during the night. The burning will continue in December and cover the remaining area of the approximate 6,000 acres planned.

-- Frank A. Albert, Forest Supervisor

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TEXAS

Events claiming state-wide, interstate, and international interest were staged on two of the Texas National Forests during late October and early November, involving participation of U. S. Forest Service officials and the Civilian Conservation Corps.

They were the annual hunt and bench show of the Texas Fox and Wolf Hunters Association at Camp Jim McLean on the Davy Crockett Forest from October 18-21 and the dedication of the Pendleton Bridge across the Sabine River boundary between Texas and Louisiana on the Sabine Forest on November 9.

The four-day meeting of the fox hunters was a colorful affair, drawing enthusiasts for the sport from all sections of Texas and from many neighboring states. Some 3,500 persons and 500 hounds were on hand for the opening of the meet; more than 10,000 attended during the session; and of this number, close to 600 remained the entire time in more than 200 tent camps which were established. A headquarters was set up at a central point under a crow's nest erected at the top of a tall pine. An exhibit was placed in one tent together with an information booth and other tents served for dining hall and to house officials and a fire-suppression crew of JCC men kept ready for an emergency.

Supervisor L. L. Bishop was the principal speaker at a general meeting staged the opening night prior to the opening of the bench show. Acting Ranger Gilbert H. Stradt and Superintendent J. Allen Causby of the Ratcliff JCC camp were active in promoting the welfare of the campers and explaining the aims and objectives of the Forest Service program.

Nearly 4,000 persons gathered to celebrate the opening of the \$160,000 bridge which will serve as a final connecting link on the old San Antonio Trail - El Jamino Real - thus joining Texas and Louisiana at a point which witnessed the passing of most of the emigrants from the United States to the new republic of the Southwest.

To the strains of martial music by rival bands, ribbons were cut by comely sponsors allowing Governors Allred of Texas and Leche of Louisiana to meet at the center of the bridge at the head of delegations which later retired to a speakers stand on the Texas side. There due homage was paid early settlers, trail-blazers, ferrymen, statesmen, and on down to the modern engineers by a formidable battery of speakers, including the two governors, lieutenant-governors, congressmen, historians and engineers.

Mexican Consul Adolfo Dominguez paid tribute to the project which he saw as evidence of a closer bond and better understanding between the two republics and an important link in the main route of transportation between Washington, D. C. and Mexico City.

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This year's planting program will probably provide for over a million trees on the Sabine and about seven million on the Angelina. Such a program will mean the reforestation of over 10,000 acres of cut-over lands.

-- Texas National Forest

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CHATTAHOOCHEE

The Chamber of Commerce of Gainesville and the Chattahoochee National Forest sponsored a motorcade on November 3-4 to see the work done by the U. S. Forest Service and the Park Service.

With Junior Architect Johnson in charge, the motorcade of twenty cars left Gainesville at 9 a.m. stopping at Chestatee Knoll Picnic Area and Vogel State Park, then on through to Murphy, N. C., where Junior Architect Weise of the Nantahala met the visitors, conducting them to Andrews for lunch at the Junaluska Terrace. Here the Andrews Civic Organization greeted the party presenting them with favors of the city. After lunch the motorcade continued on to the overlook of the Nantahala Gorge and were met by the Mayor of Robbinsville. From here the group went into the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, then back to Robbinsville, on up Route 129 through Maryville to Gatlinburg where the night was spent at the Mountain View Hotel.

The next morning after an early breakfast, the group left for the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Mr. Manly of the Park Service conducted them through the Park, leaving them at the Cherokee Indian Village where Mr. Weise again met them. After seeing the various interesting industries connected with the Indian School, the trip was continued to Franklin where lunch was served and Ranger Mills welcomed the party to his District. After lunch travel was resumed to Wayah Bald, the Deer Farm and back through Franklin to Gainesville.

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While engaged in a timber sale cruise on the Toccoa Ranger District, Assistant Ranger Ross found a sassafras which had a DBH measurement of 36 inches. This may not set a new record for the species, but a 36 inch sassafras looks pretty big to us in these parts.

-- W. H. Fischer, Forest Supervisor

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PISGAH

The Pisgah Big Game Hunt of 1937 ended December 10. Fourteen hundred hunters participated and killed 700 deer and 10 black bear. No accidents nor fires occurred during the hunt.

A five-year study completed last summer indicates that sufficient forage exists for less than half the deer present on the Preserve. Coupled with this scarcity of browse, the crop of acorns this fall is the poorest in many years. Acorns form a supplement to the winter diet of the White Tail deer and a heavy crop may help to sustain through the winter animals that ordinarily would either die of starvation, or leave the refuge to be killed in the lowlands.

Although a few deer that were killed during the hunt were fat, many more, especially does that had suckled fawns, were in exceptionally poor condition. All stomach contents examined, with the exception of two, were composed at least 99% of the leaves of mountain laurel, a very unpalatable, unnutritive species of forage. One stomach contained a large amount of beech nuts, and another about 10% rhododendron leaves, which are much more palatable than mountain laurel, but still of comparatively little nutritive value.

-- H. E. Ochsner, Forest Supervisor

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OUACHITA

During November 4,774 M board feet of timber was sold to two parties. J. W. Lewis Lumber Company purchased 2,647 M feet in the Wolf Creek Compartment, Ouachita-Fourche Working Circle, Jessieville District. This timber was advertised at \$7.40 per M and contract was awarded at \$7.50. The Saline River Compartment of the Kansas City Southern Working Circle, with a cut estimated at 2,127 M board feet, was awarded to the Hatton Lumber Company of Hatton, Arkansas on their bid of \$7.46. This timber was advertised at \$7.35 per M. White oak sales are practically closed as the bottom has dropped out of the market due to the lack of demand for bourbon staves.

JESSIEVILLE DISTRICT WINS A PRIZE!

The Region's coffers have been increased by the sum of \$10.00 - Ranger Dale proudly turned over the check in this amount as first prize money for the winning float in the parade at the Yell County Fair at Danville on October 29. Thousands of people attended the Fair and the Forest Service exhibit and float attracted much attention. It is considered that this publicity was definitely helpful in arousing public interest in forestry.

Our first court cases involving dogs running on the Federal game refuges came up to court on November 17. The judge found them guilty of what he called a technical violation of the law. He fined each owner \$5.00 on the basis that they are responsible for the actions of the dogs and if they camp near enough to a Federal game refuge to permit the dogs to enter the refuge, the owners must assume the responsibility. Six of the eight cases were thus disposed of, one case being postponed and the other case dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence.

Fire law enforcement continues to be one of our main fire prevention measures. A justice of the peace at Jessierville, Arkansas fined one man \$10.00 and costs for leaving his camp fire without extinguishing it. Another individual was fined \$12.50 at the Mt. Ida court for leaving a camp fire burning near Buck Knob Camp.

-- A. L. Nelson, Forest Supervisor

It is with deepest regret that we report the death on December 14 of Mrs. Sarah V. Hamme, mother of Miss Mary E. Hamme of the Regional Office. Mrs. Hamme's death was due to a heart attack following a brief illness of pneumonia. The sympathy of the entire Region goes out to Miss Hamme in her bereavement.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Donat L. Pigeon recently returned to the Ouachita from the Caribbean.

D. E. Bradfield came to the Regional Office early in December as chief clerk in Operation.

Richard I. Lowndes was recently promoted to improvement superintendent on the Chattahoochee.

Leonard E. Beltz of the Mississippi has been made district ranger on the Homochitto.

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THE LOOKOUT

Regional Forester Kircher made a talk on the evening of November 22 at a banquet complimentary to the U. S. Forest Service given by the membership of the Rotary Clubs of Franklin, Bryson City, Waynesville and Sylva, N.C., at the Community House in Sylva, N.C. Mr. Schilling accompanied Mr. Kircher to Sylva and they spent some time on the Pisgah Game Preserve on their way to Sylva.

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Messrs. Cook, Stowell Smith, R. M. Evans and Hopkins of the Washington Office and Region 7 spent December 2 and 3 in the Regional Office, going from here to the pulpwood meeting at Jacksonville December 6 and 7 with Messrs. Kircher, Evans and Lentz of this office.

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Mr. Peter Keplinger of the Washington Office stopped in the Atlanta office for a day enroute back to Washington from the administrative assistants' conference held at Gulfport, Mississippi.

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Messrs. Loveridge and Fitzwater spent several days in the Regional Office at the completion of their general inspection of the Region. Mr. Denmon also spent some time here during their stay.

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Other recent visitors to the Regional Office were: W. R. Mattoon of the Section of Farm Forestry and Extension, Division of Private Forestry, Washington Office; William P. Good, of the American Pulpwood Association; R. A. Conard, Director of S & P camps in South Carolina; F. D. Mulholland, Victoria, B. C.; A. E. Wackerman, Seaboard Airline Railway, Norfolk, Va.; K. S. Trowbridge of Brunswick; A. R. Shirley, Naval Stores Cooperative Agent, Tifton, Ga.; W. M. Oettmeier, Fargo, Ga.; B. M. Lufburrow and James Boyd, Southern Pine Association; R. W. Nelson, in charge of Forest Taxation studies, Southern Forest Experiment Station; L. M. Ware, in charge of Horticulture and Forestry, and Lyle Brown, Forester of the Alabama Extension Service, Auburn.

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Associate Regional Forester Stabler addressed the meeting of the State Coordinators of the Soil Conservation Service held in Atlanta on December 7.

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Clint Davis made a talk on conservation to the pupils of the Samuel M. Inman School on December 8.

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A. W. Hartman, Regional CCC Officer, spent several days in November in Little Rock, Arkansas, in conference with State Forester Gillett and Supervisor Nelson.

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In accordance with "O-Supervision" letter of April 15, 1937, December 24 and 25 will be observed as legal holidays.

